



Rayleigh Elementary School

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February 2026 Newsletter

Growing Literacy Skills

Our staff have identified that an area we would like to continue to focus on with our students is their literacy skills. For our Primary students, we are targeting their ability to decode words and read fluently. With our Intermediate students, our focus is on synthesizing information for critical analysis and inferencing.

Teachers have been approaching these goals through a number of strategic and research-based ways. I am going to highlight one example from Primary and Intermediate, but please recognize that many great literacy things are happening in our other classes.

Ms. Jones and her class recently created two student-acted videos that walk through key skills for decoding while reading, especially when feeling stuck. They used strategies like: "Does it look right? Does it sound right? Does it make sense?" to ensure that what they are reading fits. This creative approach to learning and sharing information has created a resource that other teachers in the district can use in their literacy instruction and empowers students with ready to apply strategies.



Starting in January, Ms. Murray has been hosting an Intermediate Creative Writing Club once a week. This allows students to creatively bring together ideas, encourage one another and to enjoy the process of embedding key ideas within their work. They are synthesizing information and presenting it in a way that a reader will enjoy. In addition, their writing is being prepared to be entered into a number of student writing contests.

Within both of these examples, our goal is to grow our students' literacy skills and empower them as strong readers and writers.

Upcoming Events & Dates

- Feb 2-6 Kindergarten Registration Week
- Feb 4 PAC Meeting in the Library at 6:30 pm
- Feb 6 In-Service Day (no school for students)
- Feb 16 BC Family Day (no school)
- Feb 18 BC Wildlife Park visit to Rayleigh
- Mar 11 Term 2 Learning Updates published
- Mar 13 Last day before Spring Break
- Mar 30 First day back from Spring Break
- April 3 Good Friday (no school)
- April 6 Easter Monday (no school)
- April 7 Day of Suwntwecw
- April 16 LifeTouch class photos
- April 27 In-Service Day (no school for students)
- [SD #73 School Calendar for 2025/2026](#)
- [SD #73 School Calendar for 2026/2027](#)

Learning Updates Overview

- **1st Point of Contact:** Classroom Connections - Nov 6th
- **2nd Point of Contact:** Written Learning Updates published - Dec 12th
- **3rd Point of Contact: Written Learning Updates - March 11th**
- **4th Point of Contact:** Various formats - April 27th - May 8th - exact date to be determined
- **5th Point of Contact:** Summative Written Learning Updates published - June 25th

Kindergarten Registration 2026

Kindergarten registration for catchment schools is from February 2nd to 6th. You can pick up a registration package between 8:15 am and 3:00 PM. Parents are strongly encouraged to register children for Kindergarten on these dates. Please share this information with anyone you know who will have a child eligible for Kindergarten next year.

To be eligible for attendance in Kindergarten for September 2026, a student must be five years of age by December 31, 2026.

When registering, please bring your child's original birth certificate, BC Services Card and proof of address with you as well as any legal documentation concerning custody (if applicable).



Planning for 2026/2027

If you have moved and your child will be attending another school in September, it is not too early to complete the necessary paperwork. Beginning March 1st, each school year, Transfer Requests can be submitted for students to attend a school. The process for student transfers along with the required paperwork can be found in [AP 305 School Boundaries](#) and Student [Transfer Requests](#).

Professional Development - Feb 6th

Friday, Feb 6th is a Professional Development Day for our staff. We are looking forward to a keynote address by Monique Gray Smith and spending time collaborating on how we can continue to improve our use of Indigenous resources in our classrooms and school. Students have the day off from school.

Open Parachute Learning Moment

This month's Open Parachute Learning Moment shares ideas around how to help your child [Build Self Esteem](#) as they grow and mature. We hope that this 30 minute learning opportunity will give some ideas that will work for your family.



Spoons & Forks

We have now fully transitioned away from having reusable utensils available at the office. As was mentioned last month, the excessive number of utensils that needed to be cleaned each day was becoming too much for our staff. We encourage families to include utensils in their children's lunch kits. We have a limited number of single use, wooden utensils available at the office for emergency reasons.

YMCA After School Care

Are you looking for a fun, safe, and engaging place for your child after school? Great news - they have **available spaces** at **Rayleigh Elementary School** in the **YMCA After School Care program!**

With caring staff, active play, creative activities, and a welcoming environment, it's the perfect place for kids to unwind and have fun after the school day ends. They offer both full-time and part-time options. Interested or want to learn more? Contact them at interior.childcare@bc.ymca.ca

Lunch Hour Supervisors

We continue to be in need of a second Lunch Hour Supervisor on Tuesdays & Wednesdays. If you are interested, please connect with Mrs. Maskell by contacting the office or by email (smaskell@sd73.bc.ca) and she will walk you through the process of joining our supervision team.

Basketball Season

We have four basketball teams playing in SD73 Elementary Sports leagues right now. This provides our students with the opportunity to develop their basketball skills and experience being on a team. Elementary sports are offered entirely through volunteer efforts and we are so thankful to the many community coaches, volunteer student leaders & family drivers. We want to say a special thank you to Tara Hassall for all of the behind the scenes coordinating of student paperwork, organizing of rides to games, emails to families and so much more. Also, thank you to Kim Tweed for offering Lunch Hour Drop In sessions for Grade 4s.

Below is a list of the community coaches who are helping to make this season possible. If you run into one of them, I encourage you to thank them for their volunteer efforts.

Boys Coaches: Jess Vliegenthart, Sue Devick, Alex, Devick, Brent Traxel & Quinn McKone

Girls Coaches: Scott Janzen, Melissa Maclean, Ryan Wilkinson & Karen Enns

For more information on all things extracurricular sports related, please visit [Sports & Athletics](#) on our website.

PAC News

Spring is coming and so are more fun school community events from your PAC. Next meeting: February 4th 6:30pm in the Library. Everyone is welcome! Child minding is available in the gym by donation.

It was great seeing all ages and happy faces at the January Family Movie Night. Hot Lunch is back up and running Tuesdays and Thursday until Spring Break. If you have a spare two hours one morning a month and have a valid Criminal Record Check - we are looking for Hot Lunch volunteers

A big thank you to those behind the scenes that volunteer their time to ensure this program happens every week. Please reach out to the Hot Lunch Program at rayleighpac.hotlunch@gmail.com. General PAC inquiries & questions: rayleighpac@gmail.com